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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
STATES RELATIONS SERVICE
Washington, D. C.Office of Extension Work
North and West.

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[Extension Work with Women]

MEMORANDUM TO STATE LEADERS OF HOME DEMONSTRATION AGENTS

We now have in the Washington Office the following group of experienced workers who are prepared to assist in the organization and development of home demonstration work in the Northern and Western States.

Miriam Birdseye, who joined the staff a year ago, is a graduate of Smith College and Pratt Institute and has taken graduate work at Cornell and Columbia universities. Before entering the extension field as assistant professor of extension at the New York State College of Agriculture, Miss Birdseye had experience as a teacher of home economics in the Hebrew Technical School for Girls, and in Simmons and Bates colleges. She is author of several extension publications of the New York State College of Agriculture. During the coming year, Miss Birdseye will give her attention to the work of state-wide extension specialists in work with women, assisting in the field where her services are desired. She will make some observation and study of the activities now carried on in the States on Smith-Lever funds, assembling and giving out for record here and for workers in the field information regarding aims, methods, and results looking toward the organization and standardization of state-wide specialists' work.

Emma Conley, who recently accepted an appointment in this office, was transferred from Wisconsin where she was State leader of home demonstration agents. She is a graduate of the University of West Virginia, and has done graduate work at the University of Minnesota. She has been director of the home economics department of the Oshkosh State Normal School and the Marathon County School of Agriculture, supervisor of practice teaching in Stout Institute, State supervisor of home economics for the State of Wisconsin, and in charge of home economics in the extension division of the University of Wisconsin, from which position she was released to take up the organization of home demonstration work in Wisconsin as a war emergency. Miss Conley will devote the major part of her time to the development of city home demonstration work. She will be available when desired to assist urban agents through their State leaders in placing city work on a project basis with a program of work especially adapted to local needs.

Grace E. Frysinger is a graduate of Drexel Institute and has done special work at the University of Chicago, National School of Cookery in London, and Le Cordon Bleu in Paris. She was in charge of domestic arts and sciences in Belmont College, directed the home economics work in the high schools of Des Moines, Iowa, and has also done work as a hospital dietitian. Miss Frysinger has recently been appointed the joint representative of the United States Department of Agriculture and the Council of National Defense.

Her special service as a member of this staff will be to bring to field workers the best information available on all phases of food preservation work in the home and in the community kitchen, (a) salting, brining and fermentation, (b) drying, (c) canning, (d) storing. She will also give information along correlated lines bearing upon food preservation. Miss Frysinger is prepared to aid State leaders (1) in conducting the type of training courses for volunteer workers in food preservation which will tend to multiply the service of the home demonstration agents, (2) in developing methods of follow-up work and record keeping in food preservation, (3) in passing out recent information of specialists of the Department of Agriculture and other research workers through handling inquiries that come to this office and sending out mimeographed material from time to time. All phases of this work will be carried on in close cooperation with the boys' and girls' club section of this office.

Winifred Stuart Gibbs is a graduate of Rochester Mechanics Institute and has done special work at the University of Rochester. In addition to experience in hospital work, she was a founder and director of the home economics department of the New York Association for Improving the Condition of the poor; was lecturer in household arts at Teachers' College and director of the extension department at Mechanics Institute. Miss Gibbs has had experience as an author of both scientific and popular material in home economics, and, on coming to us, was editor of the home economics department in the Forecast Magazine, New York. She will divide her time between (1) the preparing, assembling, editing of informational material for publication regarding the progress and results of extension work with women, (2) the guiding of a project on war thrift centered about household accounts and the family budget, a subject on which she is an authority, and one which has forced itself into the foreground of extension work this year because of the shrinkage in the purchasing power of the dollar as a result of war time conditions. Miss Gibbs will both in the field and in the Washington office be jointly associated with the Office of Home Economics and the Office of Extension Work, North and West.

Jessie M. Hoover is in charge of the joint project between the Dairy Division of the Bureau of Animal Industry, and the Extension Work with Women of the Office of Extension Work, North and West. The purpose of her work is to increase the home production and consumption of dairy products through women dairy agents. Miss Hoover comes to the Department of Agriculture from the University of Idaho where she was in charge of the department of home economics. She is a graduate of the Kansas State Normal School and the Kansas State Agricultural College, has had teaching experience in the Plummer Memorial School and South Dakota College, and was dean of women and professor of home economics at the North Dakota Agricultural College. Miss Hoover's work will consist of (1) visits to States where women dairy agents are employed for conference with State leaders and special dairy agents regarding the best methods for securing larger home production and utilization of dairy products; (2) the conducting of training schools, the basis for such instruction being work done in the laboratories of the Dairy Division and the Office of Home Economics of the Department of Agriculture and similar subject matter departments in State colleges; (3) the preparation of suggestive material for the use of extension workers.

Sarah Pettit recently joined this staff to assist in the organization of rural home demonstration work. As to Miss Pettit's background for this service, she was one of the first women county agents in the North, for two years in charge of the women's work in Erie County, New York, with its successful farm bureau organization. She there worked under the direction of the New York State College of Agriculture. Later Miss Pettit became State leader for Missouri where she has this year organized thirty counties for home demonstration work. She is a graduate of Teachers' College, Columbia University and was head of the home economics department in Sweet Briar College, Virginia. She organized the home economics department and initiated extension work with women at the University of Arkansas.

Edith A. Roberts is a graduate of Smith College, with master's and doctor's degrees from the University of Chicago. She was an associate professor at Mt. Holyoke and is the author of scientific publications. Miss Roberts brings to this field her experience as assistant State leader of home demonstration agents in Virginia, whose organization and accomplishment with its force of fifty agents, are well known. As a member of our staff Miss Roberts will assist in organizing and developing the women's work in the farm bureau and the home bureau and in vitalizing the same through community groups with common interests and aims.

Edith Charlton Salisbury is already known in many of the States, not only as a representative of this office, but because of her long record of extension service from its beginning in farmers institutes to the recent development of the county work with women as part of the farm bureau. Mrs. Salisbury has been connected with home economics work of the University of Virginia, Manitoba Agricultural College, and the colleges of agriculture in Iowa and Arizona. Mrs. Salisbury has during the past fiscal year visited twenty of the thirty-three Northern and Western States as a representative of this office. Much of her time this year will be spent in presenting plans for developing women's work in the farm bureau organization and in conducting training schools for home demonstration agents in methods of handling projects and programs so that these may actually be developed by the people and express their needs.

Grace M. Smith, who is a graduate of Valparaiso University, has come to us from the agricultural extension division of a commercial corporation. She possesses the viewpoint both of the rural home and the business office. She was born and raised on a farm and has taught in rural schools. Her later experience has given her thorough training in business and advertising methods, particularly in presenting educational material in graphic form. In her present work her service will be jointly shared by the women's section and the boys' and girls' club section of the Office of Extension Work, North and West. She will develop and suggest for use in the field such ideals, methods, and material as may be successfully presented in graphic form.

Gertrude Van Hoesen resigned her position as chairman of the department of home economics, at Chicago University, a position which she has held for nine years, to become a member on this staff. She holds a degree of A. B. from Chicago University, and of M. A. in social economics from Columbia University, and in addition has taken special work in food chemistry, agriculture, and dairy work at Cornell University. As an associate of this staff Miss Van Hoesen's work will be to deal primarily with city organization and its

problems, and assist city agents to make a study of city conditions so as to strengthen their leadership and give permanency to their work through developing such organization as may be best adapted to the existing needs. Where there seems to be a place for such organization, she will assist city agents to organize a central or home bureau, districting the city for this purpose and organizing the women into local working units with such central and executive committees as may be necessary to efficiency.

Very truly yours,

In Charge, Extension Work with Women.

